and diligent the Magistrate might be, he could not cope with such heavy work. Besides cases charged by the police stations in his jurisdiction, he had to attend to cases charged by the three Excise offices situated within his jurisdiction and also cases charged by the various other departments.

Again, Kartikapalli, though small in area, was one of the most populous taluks in the State. Haripad, its capital, was a municipal town. It had other institutions such as a Taluk Cutcherry, a Munsiff's Court, a Sub-Registrar's office, a police station, a Maramath Circle office, a First Grade Devaswom and the office of an Assistant Inspector of Schools. In view of the importance of the town, a Magistrate's Court should be established there.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Nilakanta Pillai Govinda Pillai, this question, namely, the establishment of a Magistrate's Court at Haripad, came up during the last session of the Assembly too and I then said there was not justification for the establishment of a court there since the Kayankulam Magistrate's Court was well situated for the whole of Kartikapalli taluk with the exception possibly of a few of the northern *pukuthies* in the taluk. Since the last session, I had the question taken up and the District Magistrate has now proposed the transfer of the jurisdiction of the northern *pakuthies* of the taluk from the Kayankulam Magistrate to the jurisdiction of the Ambalapuzha Magistrate. So the difficulties of the people of the northern *pakuhies* in the Kartikapalli taluk will be removed. Beyond that, I am afraid it is not possible for the Government to do anything now.

45. Establishment of a Magistrate's Court at Tiruvalla.

MR. K. RAMASWAMI AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Tiruvalla*) said that the need for a Magistrate's Court at Tiruvalla had been incessantly urged upon the Government for a period of four years through the Legislative Council, the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, deputations and memorials. A Magistrate's Court was in existence there from the year 1048 till 1098 when as a result of the re-distribution of revenue and magisterial charges, it was abolished. The abolition was effected without previous notice. In reply to the representation on the subject made by a deputation that waited on the previous Dewan, he stated that he would decide the matter after local inspection. On local inspection, he was convinced of the necessity for a Magistrate's Court and it was proposed to appoint a Magistrate with jurisdiction over the six *pakuthies* of Nedumpram, Tiruvalla, Kavumbhagam, Kallupara, Kaviyur and Ezhumattur. But the Court had not yet become a realised fact.

A Magistrate's Court was an absolute necessity for the protection of the life and property of the people. Viewed from the standpoint of population, revenue, extent, commerce, etc., Tiruvalla could legitimately claim a Magistrate's Court. Of the 800 cases that were filed, on an average, in a year in the Chengannur Magistrate's Court, more than 500 cases were from the 15 *pakuthies* of Tiruvalla. Prior to 1098, as many as 600 cases were being filed on an average from those *pakuthies* in a year. The distance of the Court at Chengannur from the *pakuthies* of Tiruvalla varied from 8 to 28 miles and people were, consequently, put to much difficulty in filing suits there. Moreover during the rainy season, some places would be under water and there were no proper means of communication. In view to obviate these difficulties, the member suggested that a Magistrate be appointed at Chengannur or Tiruvalla as an Assistant to the First Class Magistrate at Chengannur or that the Tahsildar be invested with magisterial powers and given jurisdiction over some of the *pakuthies* of the taluk. If either of the arrangements was not feasible, the local Munsiff might be appointed as Munsiff-Magistrate with magisterial jurisdiction over the six *pakuthies* named above. The Munsiff's Court had on its file, on an average, 1,200 original suits and 900 small cause suits a year.

DEWAN'S REPLY : Mr. Ramaswami Aiyar, the one thing that I have not been allowed to forget since I came here nearly two years ago is the need for a Magistrate's Court for Tiruvalla, all its own. It has not got enough cases for a Magistrate's Court, and just now you told me that it has not got enough vakils. However, rest assured that I will not be allowed to forget Tiruvalla and its need for a

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Magistrate's Court. It seems to me that the only thing that is necessary is the re-adjustment of the jurisdiction of the Magistrates' Courts in that part of the country. Anyhow, before I decide the question one way or the other, I will visit your place and consider the question.

46. Establishment of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Parur.

MR. K. R. VENKITESWARA AIYAR (*Member, Municipal Council, Parur*) indicated the desirability of abolishing Bench Magistrates' Courts in the several places, and said that the evil effects which the abolition of the stipendiary Magistrate's Court at Parur had on the peace and prosperity of the people were many. Parur occupied a unique position in relation to other taluks of the State. It was far away from the Capital and practically isolated from the rest of the State by the intervention of the Cochin territory. It was a Mahomedan centre and heinous crimes were not infrequent. The nearest Magistrate's Court was at Alwaye, more than 10 miles away from Parur, and people had to go there to lodge complaints. During the rainy season, communication between Parur and Alwaye was completely cut off for at least two months. People therefore very often took the law into their own hands, thereby creating trouble for the general public. The presence of a First Class Magistrate was therefore a necessity. Again, Parur was the only taluk with a District Court but no Magistrate's Court. A First Class Magistrate's Court was in existence in the taluk for a period of 4 or 5 years but was abolished for some unknown reason. The member therefore pressed for the opening of a First Class Magistrate's Court at Parur. If that could not be done, he prayed, in the alternative, that the local Tahsildar be invested with First Class Magisterial powers.

DEWAN'S REPLY: Mr. K. R. Venkitesvara Aiyar, will it suit you if the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur is transferred to Alwaye?

MEMBER: There is the Periyar river and I submit that during flood season for at least two months it is practically difficult to cross it.

DEWAN: In olden days *valloms* used to serve. How often were you completly shut off last year?

MEMBER: Two or three times,

DEWAN: How many weeks each time?

MEMBER: Two to three weeks.

DEWAN: According to my information, you failed to get Anchal for two or three days.

MEMBER: In 1099,—

DEWAN: That was under abnormal conditions in 1099.

MEMBER: This is a frontier taluk.

DEWAN: You think that wrong-doers will run away to the other side?

However, I hope very shortly to issue orders to transfer the First Class Magistrate's Court at Perumbavur to Alwaye and that will make matters easier for you.

47. Licensing of Conveyancers.

MR. C. V. KUNJURAMAN (*Member, Nominated*) said that the same subject was first brought to the notice of the Government 10 years ago and on two other subsequent occasions but no action had yet been taken on the same. Besides the reasons then mentioned in support of his prayer for appointing qualified conveyancers, there was yet another reason for repeating the same at this session *viz.*, the numerous partitions effected as a result of the Nayar and Ezhava Regulations. As many as 33,750 partition deeds were registered in a single year and 5 additional Sub-Registrars' offices had to be newly opened. According to the figures in the *Administration Report*, the total value of property partitioned during the year 1101 was 3½ crores of rupees. This, the member said, was much below the real value inasmuch as the parties reduced the consideration amounts in the deeds with a view to evade payment of heavy stamp duty and registration fees. More than ten per cent. of the persons who

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